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STORAGE BILL SHELVED.

Indefinite Postponement of the McKellar Proposition.

Wharf authorities received word in Washington about noon Saturday of the hearing on the McKellar cold storage bill, against which the cold storage, provision, meat and fish interests of the entire country have been expressing a strong opposition, has been definitely postponed. The bill provides that interstate transportation of stuffs kept cold storage over three months be prohibited.

The New England Fish Exchange made strong opposition to the bill, which, it is claimed, would mean the end of the local fishing industry. Under the bill swordfish, mackerel and other varieties, caught in summer and kept in cold storage, would not be available during the winter as they are now. Other provisions of the bill, it is claimed, would prevent the importation of salmon and halibut from the Pacific coast, as one clause of the bill prohibits the placing of the same article in different warehouses, and reads so as to require a refrigeration car, such as is used in transporting salmon and halibut here to a warehouse.

The passage of the bill also affects the price of groundfish, the fish men claim.

TWO LITTLE SHORE TRIPS IN

Gill Netters Still Up Against It—Landed Only 10,000 Pounds.

Another day and up to noon not an off shore arrival had put in an appearance.

Two fares from the shore took out at the Fort, schs. Deonora Silveria and Priscilla Smith having 3000 pounds and 6000 pounds.

Gill netting receipts yesterday afternoon were rising of 10,000 pounds, mostly cod and pollock which were shipped fresh to the Boston market.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Leonora Silveria, shore, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Priscilla Smith, shore, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 200 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Medomak, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Naomi Bruce, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Bryda F., gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Gertrude T., gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. R. J. Killick, gill netting, 2400 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, 725 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Carrie and Mildred, gill netting 1275 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Alice, gill netting, 275 lbs. fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. John R. Bradley; St. Pierre; Miquelon.

Sch. Mary F. Curtis, haddock.

Sch. Priscilla Smith; haddock.

Sch. Russell haddock.

Sch. Leonora Silveria haddock.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5.75 per cwt.; medium, \$4.75; snappers, \$3.50

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$5.00; medium, \$4.50.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5.50; mediums, \$4.50.

Cusk, large, \$2.50; mediums \$2.00; snappers, \$1.50

Haddock, \$2.00.

Hake, \$2.00.

Pollock, \$2.00.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:

Haddock, \$1.15 per cwt.

Eastern cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$2.00; snappers, 75c

Western cod, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2.15; snappers, 75c.

All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, \$1.15.

Cusk, large, \$2.00; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock, 90c; round, 80c.

Newfoundland bulk salt herring, \$3.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland pickled herring, \$4.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland frozen herring, 3 1-2c per lb.

Fresh halibut, 18c per lb for white and 14c for gray.

CATCH OF THE FRENCH FLEET

The American Consul at St. Pierre reports that the French fleet at the Newfoundland banks last year consisted of 235 sailing vessels, averaging 250 tons, and 16 steam trawlers from Arcachon and Boulogne-sur-Mer, averaging about 400 tons gross. Twenty-nine small schooners from St. Pierre and Miquelon also took part in the fishing. The French fleet is larger than the combined fleets from Newfoundland, Canada, the United States, and Portugal, which fish in the same waters—viz., on the banks between Flemish Cape and Cape Sable. The report says that while exact figures are not yet available, the catch of the sailers is understood to be much under the average, due largely to scarcity of cuttlefish bait; nevertheless, it is believed to be larger than in 1912. On the other hand the trawlers were very successful, one of them which began operations in June having landed at St. Pierre 1,028,000 fish as the result of six trips, and the average catch of other four was 440,000 fish, while one had the remarkable catch of 293,000 fish in one trip. The total landings between May 15 and October 15 were 5,634,000 fish, equal to 79,064 French quintals, or 95,865 cwt. In addition, the last catch was taken home to France. About half of the catch however, consisted of haddock, which bring a lower price. One reason of the success of the trawlers is stated to be the fine type of vessel for the bank fishing, a type which has been evolved by the trials of the last 10 years. The fleet is being added to. Prices were high. At St. Pierre they averaged 29 francs per quintal, or \$4.61 per cwt., for the salted article; while at Bordeaux, it was 37 to 41 francs per quintal. The aggregate catch for 1913 is estimated at about 500,000 cwt., against about 390,000 cwt. in 1912 and an average of 980,000 cwt. for the years 1902-10. —"Fish Traders Gazette."

Captured a Sea-Mouse.

A sea-mouse measuring nearly five inches in length, the largest of the specimen ever caught off Portland, was brought in from fishing grounds off Half Way Rock by Bernard Johnson and Harvey Doughty, two Bailey Island fishermen, Monday morning.

The length of the average sea-mouse is not more than three inches and they are seldom caught in waters along this coast. The sea-mouse brought in by the Bailey Island fishermen has been given to William Studley of William T. Studley & Co., of Commercial wharf and will probably be presented to Portland Society of Natural History.

Halifax Fish Trade Quiet.

Says the Halifax Maritime Merchant:

Local business is very quiet so far as dried codfish are concerned. The cause is the lack of demand in Porto Rico. Porto Rico is a big market—the best for us in the West Indies, and when things are quiet there, the effect here is immediate. Porto Rico seems to be passing through a financial crisis, but it is not thought that it will last very long. In another month or two at the most, things are expected to get back to normal, but in the meantime the effect on the fish trade is bad, and there is much disappointment among exporters. From the other West India Islands there is a fair demand, and as stocks here are very light, there is some question as to whether supplies are going to last out until the new catch of bank fish arrives.

The Oporto market continues demoralized, stocks are very heavy and some five or six cargoes now on the way will probably make heavy losses for their owners. The Italian market on the other hand is short of supplies and is now paying the highest price in the history of the trade. Italy wants small fish, while Oporto takes medium and large. If the Italians would only buy the kind the Portuguese use, though of course they won't it would help the situation considerably. Other European markets are in good shape for first quality stocks. The Southern Brazil market continues depressed, but Northern Brazil is active and higher prices are reported.

The following are Halifax ex-store prices today:

Dry cod—Large hard shore, choice, \$8 to \$8.25; medium hard shore, \$7.75; small hard shore, \$7.50 to \$7.75; large bank, \$7.50; bay, \$7.

Labrador, none.

Haddock, hard shore, \$5; haddock, western, \$4.50.

Hake, \$4.25.

Pollock \$4.75.

Herring—C. B. No. 1 July per bbl. nil; Bay of Islands (Spring) per bbl. \$3; Labrador No. 1, per bbl. none.

Shore, No. 1, large split, \$4.75;

Alewives, No. 1, large split, \$4.75;

Mackerel, No. 3 large, \$11; No. 2, fat, \$14; No. 1, fat, \$15.

Potomac at Bay of Islands, N.F.

Naval Tug Sent to Release Herring Vessels Arrived Yesterday.

The United States naval tug Potomac arrived off Bay of Islands yesterday from Norfolk to assist the ice-bound schooners Hiram Lowell and Francis Willard. When sighted just before nightfall, the tug was about 10 miles from the schooners. She will begin today the work of opening a lane through the ice.

Both vessels have cargoes of herring for Capt. T. M. Nicholson of Bucksport, Me. The wind was blowing light on shore last night. The crew of the schooner Georgie Campbell, which was caught in the ice and wrecked, have reached Curling on their way home.

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SMOKE HADDOCK ARE DOWN TO \$2

Wharf Has Only a Small Supply of Live Fish This Morning.

Receipts of fresh groundfish brought to T wharf, Boston, since yesterday totals 150,000 pounds, two off shores finishing the bulk supply.

Sch. Virginia hails for 62,000 pounds of haddock and cod, the largest fare, on steamer Ripple, 38,000 pounds.

Opening prices were \$2 to \$5.25 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$4 to \$5.50 for large and \$2.25 to \$2.50 for market cod, \$4 to \$6 for hake and \$5 for pollock.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail:

Str. Ripple, 34,000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Lillian, 20,000 haddock, 4000 cod.

Sch. Harriett, 5000 haddock, 300 cod.

Sch. Jorgina, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Stranger, 1800 haddock, 400 cod.

Sch. Virginia, 45,000 haddock, 17,000 cod.

Haddock, \$2 to \$5.25 per cwt.; large

hake, \$4 to \$6; market cod, \$2.25 to

\$2.50; hake, \$4 to \$6; pollock, \$5.

Contd above

CLAIMS DOGFISH HORDE INCREASING

Portland Paper Argues for Bounty As Curb for Pest.

That the long-cherished hope of the fishermen that the United States government will pay them a bounty for dogfish and establish rendering works for reducing the sea scavengers to fertilizer and oil is a hope which sprang from a common sense proposition, is evident from a bulletin just issued by the Department of Agriculture, the Portland Evening Express and Daily Advertiser declares in a recent issue, in an editorial on "fish fertilizer."

Says the Express:

One of the arguments of the fishermen is that if the government establishes rendering works they will easily be self-supporting, while the agriculturists of the United States will be given a natural fertilizer at about half what they must pay for the best chemical product. Now I. W. Turrentine, scientist in soil laboratory investigations make public the results of a thorough investigation of the fish-scrap industry and the fertilizers the Atlantic coast fisheries are furnishing.

It may be explained that the menhaden referred to is what is more commonly, particularly in this section, known as the porgy. There are at present about 40 factories on the Atlantic coast, whose main output is fish-scrap and fish oil manufactured from the menhaden. These are found all the way from Maine to Florida. The business reached its high water mark as long ago as 1884, and the profits since have never been so great, owing to the reduced price of oil and scrap resulting from the competition of other products. The annual output in oil and scrap has not varied greatly from 70,000 tons of scrap and 35,000 barrels of oil during the past 30 years. There seems every probability of a steady demand for this fertilizer.

The great success which fish-scrap has met with as a fertilizer is due in part to the fact that besides containing nitrogen it furnishes organic matter to the soil which inorganic fertilizers do not do. Ammonium Sulphate, an inorganic substance, a by-product of coke ovens, supplies almost 50 per cent. of the nitrogen used as fertilizer in this country.

The menhaden is not generally considered edible because it is "too bony" or "too oily." However, the menhaden when freshly caught and properly cooked is good to eat, although not so choice as certain other fish easily obtained. While there is no indication at present that consumption of menhaden is on the increase, the shortage of other food supplies might increase the demand, and this would be a matter of importance for the fish-scrap industry.

The waste from such fish as are now generally eaten, forms a possible additional source of fish-scrap. In

the dressing of fish the waste represents an average of 25 per cent. of the "round" weight of the fish. The yearly catch of food fish in the Atlantic and Gulf fisheries is about 700,000,000 pounds. Twenty-five per cent. of this represents refuse suitable for the preparation of fertilizer. A considerable portion of this it is impossible to use economically for the fisheries are scattered the whole length of the coast and many fish are shipped to market undressed, and much fresh fish that is dressed is prepared on shipboard and the waste thrown into the sea.

Most of the refuse of Newfoundland cod is thrown away as fast as produced. An investigation has shown that 150,000 tons of refuse are produced annually on the Newfoundland shores, which would be equivalent to over 20,000 tons of dry scrap. As this is produced at a time when all available labor is engaged in dressing the cod, the problem of saving this refuse offers scant hope of solution.

The inedible dogfish furnishes another source of fish-scrap for fertilizer; and horseshoe crabs are also reported to have been used in certain localities. The shells of crabs and lobsters have been found to be admirable as "fillers" for finished fertilizers. They contain a large amount of lime of high agricultural value, as well as a certain per cent. of nitrogen. At one fertilizer mixing plant, on Chesapeake Bay, over 250 tons of ground crab shells are used annually.

It will be noted that this report refers to our dogfish as inedible and mentions it is an available source of supply for the fish-scrap factories. But when will the government come to its senses, order an exhaustive report on the reasons for the increasing numbers of the dogfish, and recommend that the evil which is threatening our entire fishing industry be ended in the only logical manner; namely, through the payment to the fishermen of a dogfish bounty and the converting of the carcasses into fertilizer and by-products through the medium of federally operated reduction works?

Portland Fishing Notes

The laying up of the Watson, a fine two-master, one of the best of the fishing schooners hailing from this port, is significant of the poor fishing this year. And the arrivals of the past two or three weeks have backed this up. Fishermen all along the waterfront claim that this year is one of the poorest for fish arrivals. Monday there were five arrivals, and the Watson, with 12,000, brought in the largest single fare caught. The other arrivals were Edmund Black, 6000; Bernie and Bessie, 2000; Marha D. McLean, 1500; sloop Pontias, 4000.

Fisheries of Denmark.

Writing of the Danish fisheries, Consular Agent E. D. Winslow of Copenhagen says:

The Danish Fish Inspector has just made public figures relating to the catch and condition of the fisheries in the Kingdom of Denmark for 1912, in which it is shown that the value of the catch from salt waters of the Kingdom amounted to \$4,466,783 in 1912, as against \$4,081,667 in 1911. The varieties taken in largest quantities were cod, flounder, plaice, herring, mackerel, eel, shrimps, and garfish. As compared with five years ago, the catch has shown an increase in value of \$789,823. The value of the oyster takings is not included in the foregoing figures. The 1912-13 season yielded 3,992,000 oysters.

Persons engaged in the fisheries numbered 17,821, an increase of 324 as compared with the preceding year. The fishery fleet consisted of 14,380 smacks and boats. Of these 342 were of 15 tons or over, 893 between 15 and 5 tons, while the remainder of the fleet were under 5 tons register. Of the boats, 2,781 were supplied with motors. The estimated value of the fishing boats was \$2,985,895, while the estimated value of the apparatus and necessary appliances used by the fishermen in their work was estimated at \$2,182,217.

The State has assisted the fishermen by direct loans from the State treasury to the amount of \$42,237, and has also advanced to their societies or loan associations \$14,204.

Fisheries of the Faroes.

On the Faroe Islands the fishery fleet consisted at the close of 1912 of some 138 cutters, with a tonnage of 10,800. In addition to this fleet there were also engaged in the fisheries 144 motor boats and 1,168 small boats. The value of the motor boats was estimated at \$134,482, and of the smaller boats at \$36,413. The value of the cutters is not indicated. The value of Faroe Island fisheries is given as \$655,448, as compared with \$548,033 in 1911. Of this amount the cutters earned \$441,664.

Bone-yielding whales to the number of 667 were taken, a large decrease as compared with 1911 and 1910, as the catch for those years was 1,650 and 1,400 respectively. The sperm-whale catch was only 152, as against 276 in 1911.

During 1912 fishing boats of foreign nations to the number of 8 were caught inside the prohibited zone, or what is called Danish "sea territory."

Government Assistance.

The Government was called on for assistance 50 times and responded. Two coasting ships are used for this purpose and they report as having relieved 44 boats, having total crews of 171 men. In addition to the help mentioned, the relief steamers of the Government have attended and rendered minor help to fishermen whose motors have gone wrong or whose vessels have grounded or have been incased in ice floes.

The fresh-water fisheries are under the Department of Agriculture and their value for 1912 is estimated to have been \$268,000, but at present writing no further details have been made public.

The Government supports a biological station, and continuous study is made of the fish conditions and the habits of the fish suitable for human food or of use in trade.

Iceland and Greenland are not included in the foregoing report.

Portland Fishing Notes.

Sch. Angie B. Watson arrived Portland Monday forenoon with a catch of 12,000 pounds of fish, the first since Christmas. The Watson is a schooner which it was claimed Halifax papers had taken the British flag, owing to the fact that she had been fishing in British waters, and in selling to British ports, was compelled to pay a duty on her. When she arrived in this port, Watson was flying the American flag, and, according to the men along the waterfront, the captain had said that he had taken the British flag. The Watson will lay up at Portland until March, when she will go into swordfishing business.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Alice arrived at Liverpool Monday last and cleared.

Feb. 5.

LOBSTER MEAT ACT PROTEST

Wholesalers Want to be Allowed to Continue Selling Out of Shell.

A protest against the revocation of all licenses to shuck out lobster and sell it in bulk, which occurred January 1, was made by a number of wholesale lobster dealers of Portland, headed by Representative William F. Doyle, appeared before the Fish and Game Commission yesterday. Among those who appeared were Harvey, J. W. Hammond, L. Kramer, William Putnam, W. H. erson, H. McGinn, A. L. Powell, and others.

The commissioners said they have been convinced that many dealers have been selling the meat from shuckers and in many cases from nearly dead, lobsters as bulk and could easily destroy all evidence that the lobsters were not of legal size and quality.

The wholesalers asked that the commission make some provision so the wholesale men should not be made to suffer on account of the of a few violators of the law.

Fitting for Halibuting.

Sch. Avalon is fitting for halibut under command of Capt. James Lellan instead of Capt. James Mc as previously reported.

Capt. Thomas Downey will command of sch. Elmer E. Gray, buting, and the craft is being for that branch of the fishery.

Herring Were Plenty.

The herring fishery has ended the Bay of Islands, N. F. after a successful season. The fish there have been in abundance, and the sales were not up to the standard.